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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text (in Russian) of a Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of th Azerbaijani Republic on the ongoing Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 22 July 1993 elements of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia began a large-scale offensive on the city of Agdam. Having taken the western suburbs, the occupiers are destroying the ancient city using tanks, rocket artillery and heavy artillery. According to preliminary information, 40 civilians have died and over 100 have been injured.

It is now "customary" for the politicians of the Republic of Armenia to undertake offensive activities while various international forums are at work attempting to put an end to the bloodshed that has gone on for six years now in the long-suffering land of Azerbaijan. The current offensive, which was launched in the direction of Agdam, comes at a time when the representatives of Germany, the United States of America, the Republic of Belarus, France, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Italy, the Russian Federation and Turkey have been meeting in Rome under the chairmanship of Mr. Mario Rafaelli to search for urgent steps to normalize the situation and begin the peace process.

The latest offensive by Armenian militarists provides the starkest evidence of the unwillingness of the Republic of Armenia and the self-proclaimed leaders of the Armenian community of Nagorny-Karabakh to seek to solve problems by peaceful means. The flouting of international standards of behaviour, morality and law has become a matter of course for out-and-out expansionists.

The Azerbaijani people, continuing to believe in the power of international organizations and remaining the victim of aggression, hopes that the States participating in the meetings under way in Rome will in the end make the proper assessment and adopt the necessary political sanctions against the aggressor.